



CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

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FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 21 November through 21 December and details activities of the Department.

This period has been a very busy one for the city and the department. Despite a long term reduction in fire calls, we have experienced several during the last month. An increase in home fires is unfortunately a common occurrence at this time of the year and there are several contributing causes.

Chief among the causes for home fires is cooking and heating fires. As you read of the responses this month you will find both causes illustrated. Heating fire can occur due to many issues but primary among these reasons is poor maintenance. It is imperative that the heating system be inspected and maintained properly. This includes fire places, flues, dampers and chimneys. Oil and gas fired furnaces also require maintenance and cleaning.

There are a surprising number of fires that start as a result of improper disposal of fireplace and wood stove debris and ash. Please be certain that all ashes are cooled before removing them from the fireplace. All ashes and fireplace remnants must be placed in a metal nonflammable container. Never place even these cooled ashes in a flammable container. Do not use paper bags or cardboard boxes for this purpose. As clear as this seems we have had fires here in Danbury as a result of just these situations.

Here is a final fire safety note for all of our citizens. On Christmas night here in Danbury, a fire tore through a home. The smoke detectors in the home alerted the occupants and they were able to escape. There is simply no excuse for not having a working smoke detector in our homes any more. They are inexpensive and easy to install. These simple yet sophisticated devices are a true lifeline and will notify you and your loved ones of a fire in the home.

The Danbury Fire Department has been distributing smoke detectors and even batteries for them for years. For information on this program, please call our Community Risk Reduction team at 203-796-1541. Make this your resolution for 2012. We will send a crew to you and if necessary install a new detector or battery. This is a New Years resolution you can live with.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Members of the department attended the FDNY Hospital Emergency Response Seminar. This two day seminar addressed the special concerns and considerations necessary to successfully react to hospital fires and emergencies. The funding for the seminar was provided by Danbury Hospital. Assistant Chief Steve Williams and Captain Gary Arconti have been assigned to work with the Danbury Hospital emergency response coordinator James Cooper. They will develop new protocols and plans to facilitate emergency response of the department to the hospital.

E21 crew had a Fire Safety talk with 36 three year olds at Morris St. preschool. The presentation was requested by DFM Gillotti following an incident where one student had activated a pull station false alarm there a week earlier.

Once again we recognize Lt. Chip Dalys' perennial commitment to community service. Chip has championed the Danbury Professional Firefighters Local 801 Salvation Army Canned Food Drive for many years. His efforts included placing collection boxes, issuing press releases and providing radio interviews, along with collecting, sorting and delivering toys. He has been the face for Local 801's participation in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. With the aid of his Special Response Vehicle and E-21 company to assist when needed, Chip worked on and off duty to meet the need. Lt. Daly is a great example of community involvement in helping others less fortunate in our community.

Members of the department participated in the second Annual Fill-a-Truck co-sponsored by the department and DCF on 11 November.

Pre fire tours included and Brio Tuscan Grill, 60 Beaver Brook Road, Connecticut Counseling Center, One Stop Gas Station, 97 ½ Osborne St.

The department Community Risk Reduction team provided Fire Extinguisher Training for employees at Heli-Coil on 5 December.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

The department responded to a structure fire at 12 Barnum Ct. The fire was reported at 0709 hrs, called in by a neighbor. T-1 arrived first giving a size-up and taking the front of the building. Smoke was showing from the second floor and attic areas. The fire was quickly brought under control and overhauled. DFM Osborne and DFM Perry responded to investigate and believe the fire was electrical in nature. The tenants, a family of three, were able to escape uninjured. Unfortunately, they lost most of their belongings to fire and smoke damage. They relocated to the home of relatives living in Danbury.

On 21 November crews responded at 22:45 to South View Ave. They found a chimney fire in progress. Although the fire was contained to the firebox, there was burning around the outside of the woodstove insert. E23 extinguished that with dry chemical extinguisher as E24 set up to clear the flue with chains. The flue blockage appeared to be roughly 8' below the chimney top. The chain action resulted in an impressive blow torch-like flame extending approximately 15' above the chimney. A second round of powder up the flue and continued chain work provided extinguishment. Discussion with the occupants indicated that although they burned seasoned wood, the stove was not being burned hot on a daily basis. FD personnel advised them to refrain from using the woodstove until the chimney was properly inspected. Crews cleaned the garage roof of debris. No injuries were reported and there was no fire extension to the homes' structure.

On 25 November crews responded to Patricia La. This call was for a kitchen fire started from a pan of cooking oil on the stove. As E22 advanced the 1st line in, flames were rolling over the ceiling. A quick knockdown was effected, although there was considerable smoke damage to the home and contents. Reportedly one occupant attempted to extinguish the fire with an extinguisher and received facial burns. Deputy Fire Marshal Leach investigated.

On 30 November units responded to Chestnut St. for a reported water problem. Upon arrival they secured the water leak and found numerous code and safety violations in the structure. The Fire Marshal and building department responded. The chimney had several holes in it and was deemed a fire and CO hazard. Yankee gas was called and the service was disconnected until repairs are completed.

On 7 December at 09:23 units responded to Old Ridgebury Rd. for a structure fire. On arrival significant fire was noted involving most of side D, with considerable, intermittent arcing of wires of an air conditioner housing. A concerned citizen was spraying the fire with a garden hose and was relieved by command. There was concern about the possibility of the service wires burning off the house, which became our principal safety focus until the service was disconnected at the street by Northeast

Utilities. Crews knocked down exterior fire and advanced a hose line to the interior.. There was no significant extension to the interior, although considerable smoke damage was present. No injuries were reported. Deputy Fire Marshal Osborne investigated.

On 15 December the department responded to Middle River Rd. This call was a structure fire apparently caused by workers inadvertently discarding woodstove ashes into a plywood trash receptacle. Luckily, a neighbor noticed smoke issuing from the garage bay area of a barn and attacked the fire with a garden hose. The trash bin was built against a stone foundation. DFD crews performed final extinguishment, overhaul and investigation. Electrical circuitry was compromised and secured until an electrician could do the repairs. No injuries were reported and Deputy Fire Marshal Perry investigated.

On 19 December Engine 26 was on a call on Mill plain Road. While there, they were notified that a car rolled over just up the street. They responded to the scene and found a one car accident with the car on its roof. One passenger was out of the car and the other was unconscious and cyanotic. They were able to quickly get the passenger door open and extricate the victim from the car. Shortly after that the ambulance arrived and assisted tending to the patients. The police were treating this as a potentially fatal accident and closed the road. Squad 6 responded for lighting as the investigation was going to take some time and the location was at a very dark stretch of road.

Command and Staff Activities

- Retirement Dinner for Asst. Chief Robert Keenan
- Connecticut Career Chiefs
- FDNY Hospital Seminar
- Shipman and Goodwin Career Chief's Meeting
- Contract Negotiations
- Connecticut Fire Education Committee Meeting
- Board of Awards
- Holiday Dinner with The Fire Marshals at Two Steps

Donations

Danbury Hospital provided the seminar funding for the FDNY Hospital seminar. This cost was \$1000.00.

The Department was awarded a grant for \$500.00 for the acquisition of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and batteries. This was received from the Spectra Energy Foundation.

Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

For the month of December the focus of EMS Wednesday has been the CPR for the professional rescuer recertification, which includes adult, child infant and automatic external defibrillation

Each year sudden cardiac arrest strikes about 220,000 Americans. CPR and early defibrillation are the most critical factors in determining patient survival. Studies indicate that survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest can exceed 70 percent if CPR and defibrillation is administered within the few minutes.

The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of the EMS system, cross-trained firefighters that have the ability to provide these lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of a victim of a sudden cardiac arrest, has increased the patient survival rates of sudden cardiac arrests in the City of Danbury.

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

During this period the department activity leveled out after the snowstorm and related call volume associated with it. Total call volume for the year will increase by approximately 12%. Some of this is directly attributed to the significant storms that hit the region during January and February and then again in the latter part of 2011. All things considered the Communication Division handled the uptick in calls and increase of Public Service response with due diligence and professionalism.

During this period 42 permanent and relief dispatchers were issue their recertification kits for the topic of Emergency medical Dispatch. Through a guided online training syllabus each dispatcher is able to proceed through the 4 hour program to update their skills and renew their required Emergency Medical Dispatch certification. Studies include the changes in pre arrival instruction for CPR and other medical protocols. Additionally through this delivery method the department cane easily insure that all members are receiving this training in a timely and uniform fashion.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Fourth quarter training was completed on Dec. 4. All companies participated in live burns and related drills. 105 Vol. FF's attended these drills.

Volunteer Firefighters Dan Cohn and Lucio LaDuca successfully passed all exams and are now certified at the Fire Officer 1 level.

Vol. Eric Svege is enrolled in the Instructor 1 course. After completing this requirement, he will be eligible test for Fire Officer 1 certification.

Tanker Shuttle Class

Danbury hosted the Ct Fire Academy Tanker Shuttle class in early December. Nine of our Volunteer Fire fighters enrolled in the two day class. Mill Pain, King St. Miry Brook, and Wooster hose provided apparatus as well as Bethel, Stony Hill, Ridgefield and Roxbury. A special thanks to Dennis Ring for recruiting neighboring towns to participate in the practical evolutions.

Career Division

Driver/Operators

Fire Fighter Nate Chapin completed the Aerial Operator/Driver qualification requirements in early December.

Fire School- improvements-repairs

A new bank of lights was installed by our on duty people at the School facility. These lights will illuminate the rear of the Burn Building.

Fire Officer I

Fire fighters Paul Perotti, Jon DeJoseph, Sean Wanat, Phil Espitee, Terry Timan, Ted Mourges and Roger Bohan did well on their final exams and are now Certified to the Officer I level.

Fire Officer II

Capt. Ron Bowers successfully passed all of the exams for the Fire Officer II certification.

Executive Fire Officer

Capt. Dave Easter successfully completed the exclusive Executive Fire Officer program through the National Fire Academy. This is an intensive 3 year program. Two of Dave's applied research projects received high grades and are published through the National Fire Academy.

Mandatory Training- S.O.P.'s

All fire fighters are attending the second half of mandatory training. Our S.O.P.'s were all rewritten so they are in a consistent format. We are reviewing new S.O.P's and changes to existing ones. All employees will receive a hard copy for reference.

Hose Testing- Hydrant testing

Annual hose testing was completed with over 400 lengths of hose tested. Hydrants Over 2000 (90%) hydrants were tested this calendar year.

Safety Officer Assignments

The T.O was called in as Safety officer for structure fires on Stevens St., Patricia Lane, Barnum Court, Old Ridgebury Rd and Middle River Rd.

Tours

Crews are touring the Meeker's Hardware building on White St.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- ☐ Dec. 5 Retirement Dinner for FF Pete Radlet
- ☐ Nov 23, 30, Dec 14, 21 - Mentor at Rogers Park Middle school
- ☐ Dec 16 Attended the CT Fire Academy course on Risk Management for Emergency Vehicle Operations.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

E-25's "4-gas" meter is O.O.S due to an O2 sensor issue. E-24's meter required a new H2S sensor. The thermal imaging camera assigned to E-23 has been returned to ISG for an estimate of repairs. The thermal imaging camera from E-25's has just been turned in for service as well. A replacement Sawzall was ordered for the

damaged unit from E-22. E-13 was SCBA fit tested this month. A service technician was here from Detroit Diesel to address a persistent oil leak in E-26. The Rotek bearings in both ladder trucks were serviced.

Other repairs completed:

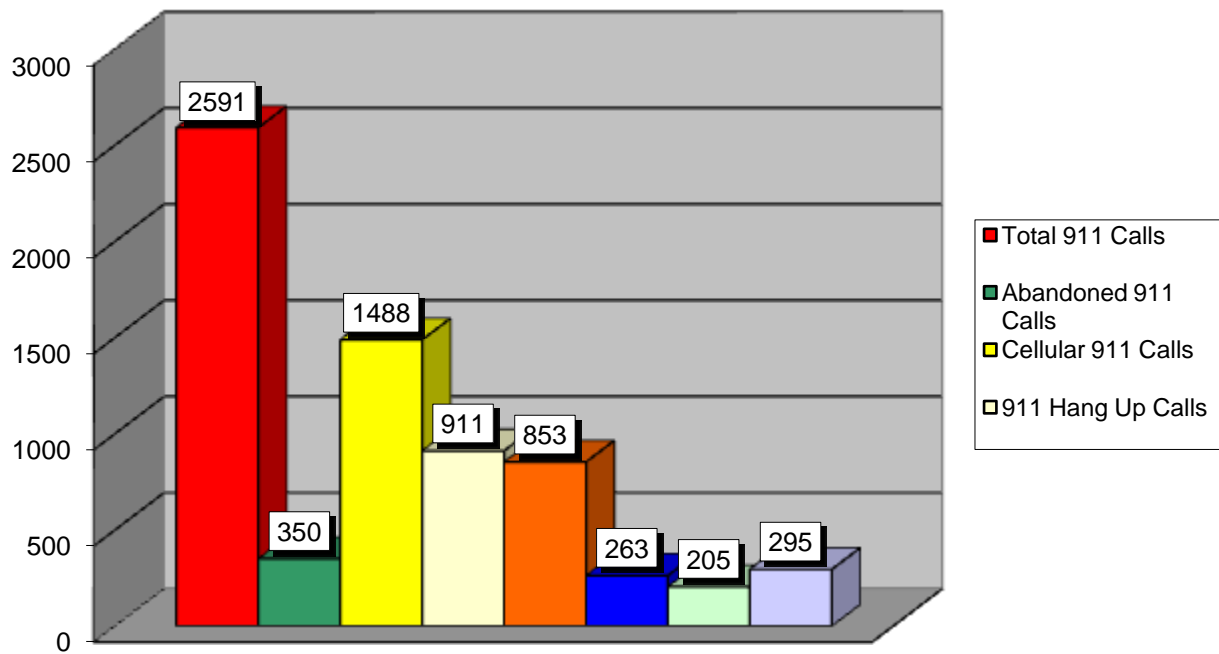
- Serviced 03PT and installed the plow.
- Replaced the front struts in 03FT3.
- Replaced the valve cover and Jake cover gaskets in E-26 and TRK-1.
- Alignments completed on 06FX1, 06FX2, 03FT3, 01CT and 03PT.
- Replaced the Officers seat belt in E-26.
- Rebuild carburetor in K-950 saw.
- Repaired the blower on TRK-1.
- Repaired multiple S.C.B.A. units.
- Replaced the batteries in Regional Haz-Mat Unit.

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson

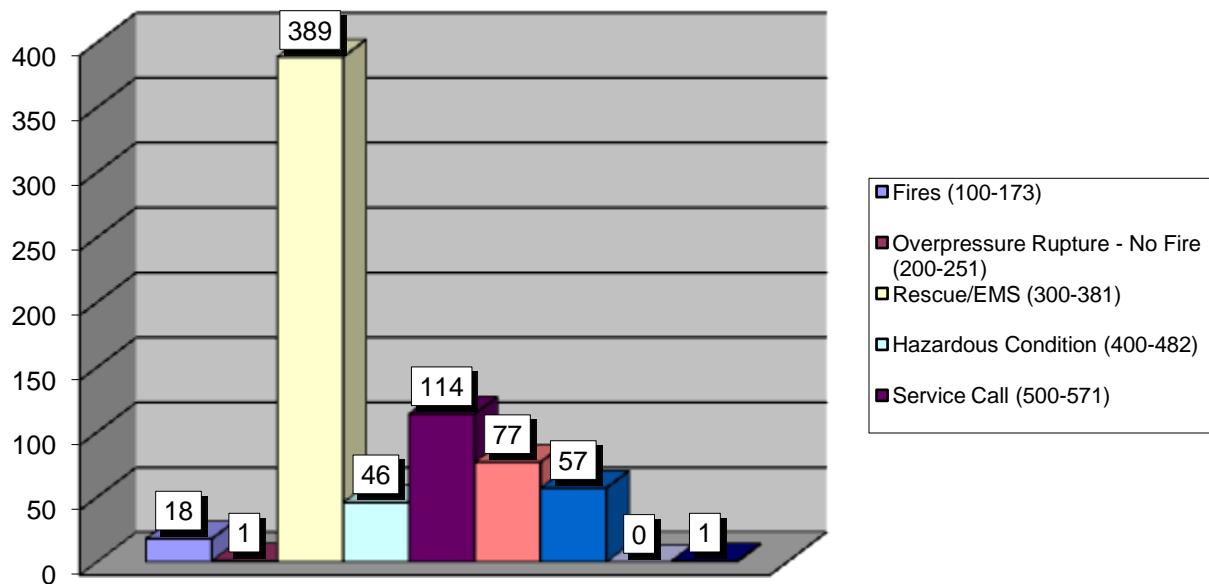
We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections. This is a perennial issue now. There were several inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic): all situations have been resolved or are about to be concluded. We continue to monitor several locations as there have been repeat offenders. Our Fire Prevention this period included several programs plus "live" fire training for 32 employees of one of our local manufacturing plants. We completed 20 hours of continuing education for annual Fire Marshal Certification. DFM'S Leach and Russell completed one week courses at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. The office investigated several fires some of which are still in process.

Department Statistical Reports

911 Center Activity Nov 21 to December 20, 2011



Fire Response Breakdown Nov 21 to December 20, 2011



Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
No Report/Incomplete	19
Fires (100-173)	18
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	1
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	389
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	46
Service Call (500-571)	114
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	77
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	57
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	1
Total Fire Responses	722
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2591
Abandoned 911 Calls	350
Cellular 911 Calls	1488
911 Hang Up Calls	911
Admin Calls Received	853
Police Calls via 911	263
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	205
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	295
Daily Average	92.54
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	722
Total EMS Responses	750
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	309
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	291
No Patient (CAD 62)	131
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	3
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	16

**** NOTE ****

Multiple 911 Calls received for
Fire And EMS
Incidents are attached to Fire
Incident Reports

Dates of Importance